



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall
531 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deborah Dingell
116 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Care Corps Demonstration Act

Dear Senator Udall and Representative Dingell,

We, the undersigned members of the Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Support Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) are writing to express our strong support for the Care Corps Demonstration Act of 2019. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The current supply of direct support workers is woefully inadequate and will only become more limited in the future as care needs increase. The aging of the baby boom generation is resulting in an increasing number of people with I/DD living in the community independently and with aging caregivers who have greater need for caregiver support to address their own physical and mental health care needs.

More than 65 million Americans provide care for a loved one who has a disability, is chronically ill, or is elderly and spend an average of 20 hours per week providing care. For caregivers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the levels of responsibility are not only greater, but frequently lifelong. There are approximately 3 million family caregivers of persons with I/DD in the U.S. According to The Arc's Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS) survey, the majority of these family caregivers provide more than 40 hours of care per week.

Family caregivers alone will not support the long-term services and supports needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults who want to continue to live at home and in the community. By placing Corps volunteers in communities where they will provide services that help seniors and individuals with disabilities remain independent in their communities and support their family caregivers, the Care Corps Demonstration Act will provide important gap-filling resources.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting people with disabilities and their caregivers and we look forward to working with you to help ensure passage of the Care Corps Demonstration Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
Autism Society of America
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Respite Coalition
TASH
The Arc of the United States